From: David Zdanowicz
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 10:32pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement needs adjusting

I am an (ISV) Independent Software Vendor, in the computer arena since
punched cards and paper tape days. I have used competing products (non
Microsoft) for DOS and Windows desktop development for over 20 years.

Borland's Turbo Basic totally ruled in quality, speed, etc, over Microsoft's
Quick Basic.
Result : Quick Basic had to be improved. I do remember the incompatibilities
Microsoft introduced in Windows 3.1: DR DOS , later Novell DOS 7.
1996 Caldera v. Microsoft antitrust lawsuit. DOS API ?s were used to call
up the services of the operating system.

As for the Windows world, I do not use any Microsoft development tool.
I've found better ones. FREEDOM OF CHOICE IS WONDERFUL. Microsoft still
sells plenty of desktop OS's for which I will continue to develop for.
HOWEVER non-documented API calls (section III. B.) DEFINITELY HINDERS
COMPETITION by wasting time correcting the behavior of the Windows API.
Perhaps Microsoft could afford a messily $10 million/yr to an INDEPENDENT
organization to better document THEIR UNDOCUMENTED API.

III
Definition A - SHOULD define "API" to mean the interfaces between
application programs and the operating system; NOT just the interface
between Middleware(definition J) and Windows.

Definition K defines "Microsoft Middleware Product" to mean essentially
Internet Explorer (IE), Microsoft Java (MJ), Windows Media Player (WMP),
Windows Messenger (WM), and Outlook Express (OE).
ADD: Office Products and Outlook, preferably delete Middleware terminology
altogether.

III.J.2 Exceptions
Microsoft seems to be able to cut off information given to projects such as
Wine (runs some of Microsoft?s API calls). Projects like Linux?s WINE should
also be supported with some donations ? Supporting free enterprise.

Microsoft should feel honored that their interface (desktop) is so popular.
Requiring 'Windows software' to be run on a 'Windows operating system'
should be totally denied (from some of their C++ licensing).

David Zdanowicz - Windows and Web Developer - Florida

Do You Yahoo!?

Get your free @yahoo.com address at http://mail.yahoo.com